

On The Island

NEWS FROM YOUR VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

SUMMER 2004



Fourth of July Celebration on the Village Green, Join Your New Community Center and Save

The Fourth of July Celebration on the Village Green will not only feature the traditional parade, picnic and fireworks, but Key Biscayners will also have an opportunity to become charter members of the new Community Center scheduled to open in mid-October.

Islanders who sign up for a 12-month membership during the Village's Fourth of July Celebration will receive an additional three months free, along with a commemorative tee-shirt from the Parks & Recreation Department. The Community Center Advisory Board will be selling memberships from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the Village Green Promenade and 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Village Beach Park.

"The Fourth of July is the biggest summertime event on Key Biscayne," said Village Manager Jacqueline R. Menendez. "The daylong celebration brings people of all ages together for outdoor fun. It's the perfect time for Key Biscayners to learn more about

their new Community Center and become part of what will be a premier spot on the island for residents of all ages to meet, socialize and have fun."

Membership is open only to Key Biscayne residents. However, daily guest passes are available for Islanders who wish to invite friends or non-resident family for a single day visit. (See fees on back page.)

A citizens' committee is now planning the Grand Opening Celebration scheduled for this fall. All Islanders will be invited to what is sure to be an historic occasion for the Village.

The Community Center was designed as a multi-generational facility to serve a wide variety of diverse interests from sports activities to adult

education. The building can accommodate separate space for toddlers, youth, teens, adults and senior citizen programs.

Continues on the back



Election '04: Lots on Ballot for Key Biscayne Voters

This fall, voters will elect the President of the United States. Key Biscayners will also have a long list of other races to decide—six Village Council members and Mayor plus a U.S. Senate seat, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and District Commissioner to name a few.

For Village Clerk Conchita H. Alvarez, the crowded November 2 General Election ballot calls for a vigorous voters' registration drive

and awareness effort. While islanders have one of the highest voting rates in the County—82 percent of the registered voters here cast a ballot in the 2000 Presidential election compared to 72 percent countywide, Alvarez hope to nudge Village turnout even higher.

"Every vote counts. If you have any doubt consider the 2000 election when a few hundred votes in Florida decided the U.S. Presidential race," said Alvarez, who coordinates elec-

tions for the Village with Miami-Dade County's Election Department. Civic minded Key Biscayne residents, she hopes, will make a 100 percent turn out of registered voters the island's goal for the fall election. The voter registration deadline for the November 2 election is October 4; registration forms are available in the clerk's office at Village Hall and the Key Biscayne Library.

Voters who cast a ballot in the 2002 gubernatorial election will recognize the paperless, touch-screen voting machines. But, for those unfamiliar with computerized voting, or who need extra help, the County elections department will have additional staff available on Election Day at voting precincts to demonstrate how the equipment works and help voters cast their ballots properly.

In addition to a long roster of elected offices to decide, the November 2 ballot is expected to include a number of referendum questions including Miami-Dade County's proposed General Obligation Bond Program. The capital construction bond package is expected to include a number of improvements on Key Biscayne including Crandon Park beach restoration and expansion of Virginia Key recreational facilities.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,
We are a Village.

Can such a simple phrase provide a road map for Key Biscayne's future? I believe so.

Earlier this year, the Village Council held its annual goals conference, Vision 2004, to chart a long-term strategy for our island. Topics included: how to prevent overbuilding and protect our environment; how we can provide educational and recreational opportunities for residents of all ages; how to ease traffic and make our streets more pedestrian friendly?

Questions such as these sparked a lively debate. Yet, there was one overriding concern, universally agreed upon—we are a village and we want to remain one.

Looking back on the past 18 months as your mayor, I believe this effort, to keep "the village in the Village," is what guides our local government every day. There are a number of projects now underway that will contribute to this goal in a very real way.

First, the nearly completed Community Center is scheduled to open this fall. All of us can look forward to a new hub of village activity that will draw Islanders together for sporting events, lectures, music, classes and much more. Like our Village Green, the Community Center will serve as a new meeting ground, a place for friends and neighbors to gather and get to know one another better.

Another important quality of life project now underway is the long anticipated upgrade of Crandon Boulevard. A Master Plan Committee is looking at ways to improve the main street of our Village. For islanders, these improvements mainly consist of increasing safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and automobiles. Key Biscayners should be able to walk across Crandon without putting their lives in peril.

User-friendly solutions under consideration include narrowing traffic lanes, installing crosswalks, adding bikeways and putting more patrol cars on the road to enforce the speed limit. Funds from the Village's share of the half-penny transportation tax, along with state and county support, will pay for Crandon improvements.

Perhaps one of the most important considerations of close-knit community is how we treat families and provide for our children. Neighborhood schools have always been an important component of small town America. Key Biscayne Community School is finally getting a Middle School building. To keep our teen-agers closer to home we are also exploring the possibility of a new high school and sports fields on Virginia Key.

Those of us lucky enough to live on Key Biscayne value the character of our island community. We chose to live in a village away from the rush and hassle of urban life. I look forward to working with you to keep it that way.

Robert Oldakowski, Mayor

INTERESTED IN RUNNING?

To qualify for the Village Council race, candidates must file with the Village Clerk's office September 7 -17. Candidates must be U.S. citizens and have resided in the Village of Key Biscayne for at least one year prior to filing. Candidates run at-large for a two-year term. For details on how to qualify for a spot on the 2004 election ballot, call 305-365-5506 or visit www.keybiscayne.fl.gov.

Dates to Remember

- Primary Election (County, State races) August 31, 2004
- General Election November 2, 2004
- Voter Registration Deadline October 4, 2004
- Key Biscayne Run-Off Election (if necessary) November 16, 2004
- Voter Registration Deadline October 18, 2004

Absentee ballot request forms are available in the Village Clerks Office, 88 West McIntyre Street, Suite 220. For information, call 305-365-5506

Calendar

July 2004

Saturdays

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 21

Family Storytime

Stories, songs and fingerplays

Ages three-five years

Key Biscayne Branch Library

299 Crandon Boulevard

10 a.m.

July 4

Independence Day

Annual 4th of July Parade and Fireworks

Let Freedom Ring

Crandon Boulevard, Village Green

11 a.m. - Sunset

July 10

McCarthy's Wildlife Sanctuary Visit

Children will learn about animals firsthand when McCarthy's Wildlife Sanctuary comes to visit.

Meet an African lion cub, a Scarlet Macaw, a Barred Owl, an American Alligator, a Rose Hair Tarantula, a Burmese Python, and more.

All ages

Key Biscayne Branch Library

299 Crandon Boulevard

11 a.m.

Wednesdays

July 14, 21, 28

Learn to Play Bridge

Bridge Life Master Gloria Mendoza will teach children the fine art of the game of bridge. Please call the library for start time and details.

Ages nine to 16 years

Key Biscayne Branch Library

299 Crandon Boulevard

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

July 20

Book Discussion Group

Key Biscayne Branch Library

Call for details

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

July 22

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Key Biscayne Chamber of Commerce

Business Card Exchange

The Link Grill. Meet business contacts at the new Clubhouse at the Crandon Park Golf Course

ASK THE VILLAGE MANAGER



People of all ages now use computers to do everything from chat with friends to reading the news online. **"How is the Village of Key Biscayne using the new technology to improve service delivery to its residents?"** Here is the answer from Village Manager Jacqueline R. Menendez.

"Visit www.keybiscayne.fl.gov and you will see a number of enhancements on our village website including videotesting that allows residents to watch Village Council Meetings live from their computer. Or, you can view archived meetings at a later date. If you missed the *State of the Village* speech earlier this year you can hear, and see, Mayor Robert Oldakowski deliver his message from the Sonesta Beach Resort. Computer technology is making government more accessible for anyone who can sign onto the Internet. The Key Biscayne website provides information on everything from hurricane preparedness to current village job openings. You can download forms, including voters' registration and building permit applications. You can check the Village calendar to see upcoming events and sports schedules. A live webcam charts progress of the new Community Center. And, some government services are now delivered online. For example, contractors can view comments on building permit applications and request their inspections online. Look for more e-government improvements in the future."

Have a question for the Village Manager? You can send an e-mail query to jmenendez@keybiscayne.fl.gov or write to her at Village Hall, 88 West McIntyre Street, Key Biscayne, Florida 33149.

Fourth of July

continued from front page

The theme of this year's *Fourth of July* Celebration is "Let Freedom Ring." Activities kick off at 11 a.m. with a parade and end after sunset with one of the best fireworks displays in South Florida. The *Fourth of July* Parade Committee is expecting more than 50 floats to join the red, white and blue parade. In past years, creative Islanders have decorated their

July 24

11 a.m.

Caribbean Soul with Reggie Paul

Dance, clap and sing along to the sounds and soul of Caribbean music.

All ages

Key Biscayne Branch Library

299 Crandon Boulevard

August 2004

August 7

11 a.m.

Alphabet Theatre Puppet Show

Enjoy "Rhythms and Rhymes with Mother Goose" a fun, musical puppet show put on by Alphabet Theatre Productions.

All ages

Key Biscayne Branch Library

299 Crandon Boulevard

August 11, 18, 25

Learn to Play Bridge

Bridge Life Master Gloria Mendoza will teach children the fine art of the game of bridge. Please call the library for start time and details.

Ages nine to 16 years

Key Biscayne Branch Library

299 Crandon Boulevard

August 16

Miami-Dade County Public Schools Classes Begin

August 17

7 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Book Discussion Group

Key Biscayne Branch Library

Call for details

August 31

7 p.m.

Village Council Meeting

Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

7 p.m.

September 2004

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Learn to Play Bridge

Bridge Life Master Gloria Mendoza will teach children the fine art of the game of bridge. Please call the library for start time and details.

Ages nine to 16 years

Key Biscayne Branch Library

299 Crandon Boulevard

September 6

Labor Day

Library and government offices closed

September 7

Village Council Meeting

Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

September 14

Village of Key Biscayne

First Budget Hearing

Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

September 21

Book Discussion Group

Key Biscayne Branch Library

Call for details

September 28

Village of Key Biscayne

Second Budget Hearing

Council Chambers, 560 Crandon Boulevard

Library Hours:

Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays

9:30 a.m.-9 p.m.

Closed Sundays in the summer

Check out books, video and audio tapes at the

Key Biscayne Branch Library

299 Crandon Boulevard

Phone: 305-361-6134



NEW POOPER SCOOPER LAW

Pets are not allowed in Village parks but there are many other scenic areas on the Island to walk your dog.

Just remember, Key Biscayne's new pooper scooper law

requires that you clean up after man's best friend.

Mayor Robert Oldakowski and neighbor Karen Levison

take Toby and Leah for a walk with pooper scoopers

firmly in hand.

Key Information

VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Mayor Robert Oldakowski
roldakowski@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Vice Mayor Jorge Mendoza
jmendoza@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Councilmember Martha Fernandez-Leon Broucek
mbroucek@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Councilmember Carol Diaz-Castro
cdiazcastro@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Councilmember Mortimer Fried
mfried@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Councilmember James Peters
jpeters@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Councilmember Robert Vernon
rvernon@keybiscayne.fl.gov

Village Manager Jacqueline R. Menendez
jmenendez@keybiscayne.fl.gov

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Village Manager's Office 305-365-5500

Village Clerk 305-365-5506

Building Zoning and Planning 305-365-5512

Fire Rescue 305-365-8989

Police 305-365-5555

Public Works 305-365-8945

Recreation 305-365-8901

Building Inspections 305-365-5512

Code Enforcement 305-365-8917

Occupational License 305-365-8917

Senior Services Coordinator 305-365-8953

Solid Waste Information 305-365-5500

Sports Coordinator 305-365-8900

Zoning Information 305-365-5502

Mosquito Control 305-529-1186

Property Tax Collector 305-270-4916

Voter Registration 305-375-4600

Water & Sewer Emergency Services 305-665-7471

Village of Key Biscayne Community Center Rate Schedule

Category	Daily Resident	Daily Guest	Monthly	Annual
Adults	\$8.00	\$12.00	\$50.00	\$275.00</td